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Oct. 20, 1999
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NEWS RELEASE

CLICK, CLICK, IN: UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON STUDENTS REGISTER FOR CLASSES ONLINE

DAYTON, Ohio — Ryan Monahan says he's not going to miss racing across campus to get his adviser's signature and camping out in line to wait to register for classes at the University of Dayton.

Starting this week, students can register for classes over the Internet (<http://www.udayton.edu/~registr>) as the University of Dayton introduces a customized electronic registration system that confirms class openings, checks whether prerequisites have been met and allows advisers to submit their approval of student schedules — all with the tap of a few computer keys from the comfort of home or a residence hall room.

To encourage use of the new system, the registrar's office is giving online registrants a 90-minute head start over those who register in person and the convenience of signing up for courses until midnight and on the weekends. Undergraduate, graduate and part-time students can register online from 7 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week.

The University of Dayton's system, created by Cyber Design in Orchard Park, N.Y., is different from ones on many other college campuses because it's fully interactive with the student database system and keeps the adviser's role intact. Cyber Design is an Internet marketing firm started by former University of Dayton students.

"As soon as you hit the button, it automatically gives you the seat, if it's available," says Tom Westendorf, registrar. "An adviser can review the selections, and with one click, approve a student's schedule."

Monahan, director of student affairs for the Student Government Association, says students like the "ease and effortlessness" of the new system, but some first-time users have qualms about using new technology. Students can still register the traditional way if they're uncomfortable with the online process.

"From what I've heard, students say they are eager to try the process but hesitant to

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jump in full force,” says Monahan, a senior from St. Louis. The notion of no lines, no signatures and no hassle makes the program a welcome change from the normal registration process. ... I think UD is definitely keeping up with technology initiatives.”

The University of Dayton is one of the most wired residential campuses in the country. All University-owned housing on the highly residential campus — space for 5,645 students in dormitories, residence halls, apartments and 350 houses in the 25-block campus neighborhood — is fully wired for direct high-speed Internet connection as well as the University’s 78-channel cable television system and telephone network. The University provides dial-in connections to the campus computer network for those who don’t have direct connections.

This fall, all first-year students purchased or leased a desktop or laptop computer, loaded with the same Microsoft and Lotus software their professors are using. Students have 24-hour access to the library, can e-mail their professors whenever a question arises and work on group projects around the clock.

To help support the computer initiative, students serve as troubleshooters for one another. A corps of 20 student computer consultants in the residence halls make house calls, troubleshoot problems and offer one-on-one and small-group training. Two full-time technicians staff an on-campus support center, and “techno-fellows” volunteer in every first-year student residence hall to help their less-savvy neighbors with computer questions and glitches.

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